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Michael C. Robinson

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EXAMINER

KIM, PAUL

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2161

DATE MAILED: 11/27/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/633,804	Applicant(s) ROBINSON ET AL.	
	Examiner Paul Kim	Art Unit 2161	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 August 2006.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 and 21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 and 21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office action is responsive to the following communication: Amendment filed on 25 August 2006.

Response to Amendment

2. Claims 1-17 and 21 are pending and present for examination.
3. Claims 18-20 have been cancelled.
4. Claims 1, 7, 15 and 21 have been amended.
5. No claims have been added.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. **Claims 1-17 and 21** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsuchiya (U.S. Patent No. 6,950,864, hereinafter referred to as TSUCHIYA), filed on 27 July 2000, and issued on 27 September 2005, in view of Essential SNMP, by Douglas Mauro et al, and published on 15 October 2001.

TSUCHIYA differs from the claimed invention in that it fails to expressly disclose a method wherein creating an object uses a SET command.

MAURO discloses a NMS which processes a SET command to change the value of a managed object or to create a new row in a table.

8. **As per independent claims 1, 15 and 21**, TSUCHIYA, in combination with MAURO, discloses:

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A method for a management application {See MAURO, Chapter 5, wherein this reads over "Network-Management Software"} accessing a database of interest {See MAURO, Section 1.4, wherein this reads over "[t]he Management Information Base (MIB) can be thought of as a database of managed objects that the agent tracks"}, the method comprising:

said management application creating a first object for indicating a unique identifier identifying a data item {See TSUCHIYA, Fig. 5, Element 20a; and col. 4, lines 29-44, wherein this reads over "the field of the SNMP command is constituted so as to include a command type, a request index, and a management object identifier"; "command type specifies one of commands such as GET . . . SET"; and "management object identifier specifies a device address and a management object referred to by the command"} wherein said creating said first object uses a first SET command {See MAURO, Section 2.6.4, wherein this reads over "[t]he set command is used to change the value of a managed object or to create a new row in a table"};

an agent {See TSUCHIYA, col. 1, lines 13-18, wherein this reads over "a management object process unit incorporated in the managed device as an agent"} storing said unique identifier in a restricted intermediate database {See TSUCHIYA, col. 2, lines 13-14, wherein this reads over "a memory section for storing the management object collected from the managed device"};

said management application creating a second object {See TSUCHIYA, Fig. 5, Element 20a; and col. 4, lines 29-44, wherein this reads over "the field of the SNMP command is constituted so as to include a command type, a request index, and a management object identifier"; "command type specifies one of commands such as GET . . . SET"; and "management object identifier specifies a device address and a management object referred to by the command"} for indicating a data type for said data item {See TSUCHIYA, Fig. 5, Element 20d}, said creating said second object including use of a second SET command {See MAURO, Section 2.6.4, wherein this reads over "[t]he set command is used to change the value of a managed object or to create a new row in a table"};

said agent {See TSUCHIYA, col. 1, lines 13-18, wherein this reads over "a management object process unit incorporated in the managed device as an agent"} storing said data type in said restricted intermediate database {See TSUCHIYA, col. 2, lines 13-14, wherein this reads over "a memory section for storing the management object collected from the managed device"};

said management application creating a third object {See TSUCHIYA, Fig. 5, Element 20a; and col. 4, lines 29-44, wherein this reads over "the field of the SNMP command is constituted so as to include a command type, a request index, and a management object identifier"; "command type specifies one of commands such as GET . . . SET"; and "management object identifier specifies a device address and a management object referred to by the command"} for indicating an action to be performed on said data item with respect to the database of interest {See MAURO, Section 2.6.4, wherein this reads over "[t]he s tells snmpset that we want to set the value of sysLocation to a string"}, said creating said third object including use of a third SET command {See MAURO, Section 2.6.4, wherein this reads over "[t]he set command is used to change the value of a managed object or to create a new row in a table"};

said agent issuing an action command to perform said action {See TSUCHIYA, col. 1, lines 26-29, wherein this reads over "[t]he agent . . . transmits a response for the request in the form of the SNMP command to the manager"}, wherein said agent uses said stored unique identifier, said stored data type, and said action {See TSUCHIYA, Fig. 5, Element 20a; and col. 4, lines 29-44, wherein this reads over "the field of the SNMP command is constituted so as to include a command type, a request index, and a management object identifier"};

said agent receiving a response to said action command from the database of interest {See MAURO, Section 1.4, wherein this reads over "RDBMS MIB"; and Section 2.6.4, wherein this reads over "run a final smgget, which tells us that the set actually took effect"}; and

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said agent sending said response to said management application {See MAURO, Section 2.6.4, Figure 2-8, wherein this reads over "the agent performs the set and returns a noError response to the NMS"}.

While TSUCHIYA teaches the use of an agent and certain SNMP commands directed toward a management object, MAURO teaches the specific use of "set" and "get" Operations. Therefore, since the prior art MAURO further discloses the details of issuing an SNMP command and the MIB structure, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the above invention suggested by TSUCHIYA by combining it with the invention disclosed by MAURO. The results of this combination would lead to the method for a management application (i.e. Network Management Software) accessing a database by means of an agent which stores a unique identifier and data type in a restricted intermediate database.

Additionally, with respect to the amendment which recites a limitation that has the agent "receiving said unique identifier (also said data type and said action) from said management application" wherein the received data is stored in a restricted intermediate database "distinct from the database of interest," TSUCHIYA discloses a network management system wherein "the MIB processing section collects a management object . . . from the managed device 13 and processes the management object into an MIB format" {See TSUCHIYA, C4:L45-57}. Furthermore, "[t]he object managing section 19 manages the management object collected" and stores the received data in a management table which is "composed of the management object identifier, the management object collection time, the collected management object, and classification data" {See TSUCHIYA, C5:L3-5 and 61-65}. Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would correlate the aforementioned prior art with the present invention such that the data would be stored in a restricted intermediate database (i.e. the management table) distinct from the database of interest (i.e. the managed device).

One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this modification so that SNMP may be used in accessing restricted management objects.

9. **As per dependent claims 2 and 12**, TSUCHIYA, in combination with MAURO, discloses:

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The method recited in claim 1, wherein said response indicating success is said data item {See MAURO, Section 2.6.4, wherein this reads over "the snmpset command succeeds and reports the new value of sysLocation"}₂

10. **As per dependent claims 3 and 13**, TSUCHIYA, in combination with MAURO, discloses:

The method recited in claim 1, wherein said response indicating failure is an error message {See MAURO, Section 2.6.4, wherein this reads over "[the agent] performs other checks and, if any of them fail, returns a get-response with the appropriate error code"}₂

11. **As per dependent claims 4, 8, and 16**, TSUCHIYA, in combination with MAURO, discloses:

The method recited in claim 1, wherein said action is a returning to said management application of said data item from the database of interest, and said action command is a GET command {See MAURO, Section 2.6.4, wherein this reads over "run a final snmpget, which tells us that the set actually took effect"}₂

12. **As per dependent claims 5, 9, and 17**, TSUCHIYA, in combination with MAURO, discloses:

The method recited in claim 1, wherein said action is a storing of said data item in the database of interest {See MAURO, Section 2.6.4, wherein this reads over "[t]he set command is used to change the value of a managed object or to create a new row in a table"}₂

said action command is a fourth SET command {See MAURO, Section 2.6.4, wherein this reads over "[t]he set command is used to change the value of a managed object or to create a new row in a table"}₂; and

further comprising: said management application creating a fourth object for indicating an actual value of said data item to be stored in the database of interest {See MAURO, Section 2.6.4, wherein this reads over "s tells snmpset that we want to set the value of sysLocation to a string; and 'Atlanta, GA' is the new value itself"}₂

13. **As per dependent claims 6 and 14**, TSUCHIYA, in combination with MAURO, discloses:

The method recited in claim 1, wherein the database of interest is a restricted database {See MAURO, Section 1.4, wherein this reads on "a proprietary MIB"; and Section 2.6.4, wherein this reads over "[o]bjects that are defined in the MIB as read-write or write-only can be altered or created using this command"}₂

14. **As per independent claim 7**, TSUCHIYA, in combination with MAURO, discloses:

An apparatus for accessing a database of interest, the apparatus comprising:

a first network device {See MAURO, Section 2.6.4, wherein this reads over "NMS"}₂

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a second network device {See MAURO, Section 1.4, wherein this reads over "RDBMS MIB"}
operatively coupled to said first network device; and

an agent software program {See TSUCHIYA, col. 1, lines 13-18, wherein this reads over "a management object process unit incorporated in the managed device as an agent"} programmed to monitor said second network device {See MAURO, Section 1.4, wherein this reads over "RDBMS MIB"};

wherein said first network device is

programmed to create a first object for indicating a unique identifier for a data item {See TSUCHIYA, Fig. 5, Element 20a; and col. 4, lines 29-44, wherein this reads over "the field of the SNMP command is constituted so as to include a command type, a request index, and a management object identifier"; "command type specifies one of commands such as GET . . . SET"; and "management object identifier specifies a device address and a management object referred to by the command"} using a first SET command {See MAURO, Section 2.6.4, wherein this reads over "[t]he set command is used to change the value of a managed object or to create a new row in a table"};

programmed to create a second object {See TSUCHIYA, Fig. 5, Element 20a; and col. 4, lines 29-44, wherein this reads over "the field of the SNMP command is constituted so as to include a command type, a request index, and a management object identifier"; "command type specifies one of commands such as GET . . . SET"; and "management object identifier specifies a device address and a management object referred to by the command"} for indicating a data type for said data item {See TSUCHIYA, Fig. 5, Element 20d} using a second SET command {See MAURO, Section 2.6.4, wherein this reads over "[t]he set command is used to change the value of a managed object or to create a new row in a table"};

programmed to create a third object {See TSUCHIYA, Fig. 5, Element 20a; and col. 4, lines 29-44, wherein this reads over "the field of the SNMP command is constituted so as to include a command type, a request index, and a management object identifier"; "command type specifies one of commands such as GET . . . SET"; and "management object identifier specifies a device address and a management object referred to by the command"}, using a third SET command {See MAURO, Section 2.6.4, wherein this reads over "[t]he set command is used to change the value of a managed object or to create a new row in a table"}, for indicating an action to be performed on said data item with respect to the database of interest {See MAURO, Section 2.6.4, wherein this reads over "[t]he s tells snmpset that we want to set the value of sysLocation to a string"}, and

programmed to receive a response to an action command to perform said action {See MAURO, Section 2.6.4, wherein this reads over "[the agent] performs other checks and, if any of them fail, returns a get-response with the appropriate error code"}; and

wherein said agent is further

programmed to store said unique identifier in a restricted intermediate database {See TSUCHIYA, col. 2, lines 13-14, wherein this reads over "a memory section for storing the management object collected from the managed device"};

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programmed to store said data type in said restricted intermediate database {See TSUCHIYA, col. 2, lines 13-14, wherein this reads over "a memory section for storing the management object collected from the managed device"}.

programmed to issue said action {See TSUCHIYA, col. 1, lines 26-29, wherein this reads over "[t]he agent . . . transmits a response for the request in the form of the SNMP command to the manager"} command using said stored unique identifier, said stored data type, and said action {See TSUCHIYA, Fig. 5, Element 20a; and col. 4, lines 29-44, wherein this reads over "the field of the SNMP command is constituted so as to include a command type, a request index, and a management object identifier"}.

programmed to receive said response {See MAURO, Section 1.4, wherein this reads over "RDBMS MIB"; and Section 2.6.4, wherein this reads over "run a final smpget, which tells us that the set actually took effect"}, and

programmed to send said response to said first network device {See MAURO, Section 2.6.4, Figure 2-8, wherein this reads over "the agent performs the set and returns a noError response to the NMS"}.

While TSUCHIYA teaches the use of an agent and certain SNMP commands directed toward a management object, MAURO teaches the specific use of "set" and "get" Operations. Therefore, since the prior art MAURO further discloses the details of issuing an SNMP command and the MIB structure, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the above invention suggested by TSUCHIYA by combining it with the invention disclosed by MAURO. The results of this combination would lead to the method for a management application (i.e. Network Management Software) accessing a database by means of an agent which stores a unique identifier and data type in a restricted intermediate database.

Additionally, with respect to the amendment which recites a limitation that has the agent "receiving said unique identifier (also said data type and said action) from said management application" wherein the received data is stored in a restricted intermediate database "distinct from the database of interest," TSUCHIYA discloses a network management system wherein "the MIB processing section collects a management object . . . from the managed device 13 and processes the management object into an MIB format" {See TSUCHIYA, C4:L45-57}. Furthermore, "[t]he object managing section 19 manages the management object collected" and stores the received data in a management table which is "composed of the management object identifier, the management object collection time, the collected

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management object, and classification data" {See TSUCHIYA, C5:L3-5 and 61-65}. Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would correlate the aforementioned prior art with the present invention such that the data would be stored in a restricted intermediate database (i.e. the management table) distinct from the database of interest (i.e. the managed device).

One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this modification so that SNMP may be used in accessing restricted management objects.

15. **As per dependent claim 10**, TSUCHIYA, in combination with MAURO, discloses:

The apparatus recited in claim 7, wherein said first network device is a network management station {See MAURO, Section 2.6.4, wherein this reads over "NMS"}.

16. **As per dependent claim 11**, TSUCHIYA, in combination with MAURO, discloses:

The apparatus recited in claim 7, wherein said second network device is a monitored device {See MAURO, Section 1.4, wherein this reads over "RDBMS MIB"}.

Response to Arguments

17. Applicant's arguments filed 25 August 2006 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

a. **Applicant's Arguments**

i. 35 U.S.C. 103(a) under Tsuchiya in view of Mauro

Applicant asserts the argument that Tsuchiya fails to "disclose the management object identifier, the management object collection time, the collected management object, or the classification data as being stored in a restricted intermediate database distinct from a database of interest" (See Amendment, page 11).

Applicant asserts the argument that Tsuchiya fails to "disclose issuing an action command to a database of interest to perform an action on a data item using a stored unique identifier, a stored data type, and the action, whereby an agent receives a

response from the database of interest and sends the response to a management application or network device/management station" (See Amendment, page 11).

b. **Response to Arguments**

i. 35 U.S.C. 103(a) under Tsuchiya in view of Mauro

As per claims 1, 7, 15 and 21 and Applicant's assertion that Tsuchiya fails to "disclose the management object identifier, the management object collection time, the collected management object, or the classification data as being stored in a restricted intermediate database distinct from a database of interest," Applicant is directed to TSUCHIYA which discloses a network management system wherein "the MIB processing section collects a management object . . . from the managed device 13 and processes the management object into an MIB format" {See TSUCHIYA, C4:L45-57}. Furthermore, "[t]he object managing section 19 manages the management object collected" and stores the received data in a management table which is "composed of the management object identifier, the management object collection time, the collected management object, and classification data" {See TSUCHIYA, C5:L3-5 and 61-65}. Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would correlate the aforementioned prior art with the present invention such that the data would be stored in a restricted intermediate database (i.e. the management table) distinct from the database of interest (i.e. the managed device).

Secondly, as per claims 1, 7, 15 and 21 and Applicant's assertion that Tsuchiya fails to "disclose issuing an action command to a database of interest to perform an action on a data item using a stored unique identifier, a stored data type, and the action, whereby an agent receives a response from the database of interest and sends the response to a management application or network device/management station," one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871

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(CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986). In the present case, Mauro discloses an NMS which initiates a get request and sends the request to an agent. Upon the agent successfully gathering the request information, the agent sends the response back to the NMS. One of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would be able to discern that such the request process between the NMS and the agent, as disclosed by Mauro, would correlate with "an agent receiv[ing] a response from the database of interest and send[ing] the response to a management application," as asserted by Applicant. Additionally, it is noted that Tsuchiya discloses a method for issuing an SNMP command wherein the field format of the SNMP command includes a "command type, a request index, and a management object identifier" {See Tsuchiya, C4:L29-44}.

Therefore, the rejections of claims 1, 7, 15 and 21 are sustained under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Conclusion

18. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.


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19. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Paul Kim whose telephone number is (571) 272-2737. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 9am - 5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeffrey Gaffin can be reached on (571) 272-4146. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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